



Fact Sheet—Community Tool Kit

Facts about implementation of I-901

- Washington will be the 10th state to implement a law prohibiting smoking in all indoor public places including restaurants, bars, bowling centers, and non-tribal casinos. These places are exempt from the current law (RCW 70.160.020).
- The new law will:
 - Go into effect December 8, 2005.
 - Call for a 25-foot perimeter or a “presumptively reasonable distance” of no smoking in front of building entrances, windows and ventilation intakes.
 - Require businesses to post signs conspicuously at each entrance and in prominent locations throughout the premises.
 - Impose a civil fine of up to \$100 on those who violate the law by smoking or destroying a sign allowed by the law. In the case of continued violation by a business, an additional \$100 fine can be imposed for each day the violation continues.
 - Empower Local Health Jurisdictions (LHJs) to be the primary enforcement agent for this new law in regards to owners or persons in charge, including responsibility for determining the “presumptively reasonable distance” in cases of dispute.

The risks of secondhand smoke

- Secondhand smoke contains a mixture of more than 4,000 chemicals, more than 50 of which are cancer-causing agents (carcinogens),^{1 2} and contributes to 38,000 deaths annually in the U.S.³
- Currently, more than 100,000 nonsmokers in Washington are exposed to secondhand smoke while on the job.⁴
- People are exposed to secondhand smoke at home, in the workplace, and in public venues such as bars, bowling centers, and restaurants.⁵ Employees exposed to secondhand smoke on the job are over 30 percent more likely to get lung cancer.^{6 7}
- Secondhand smoke poses a special risk to children – nationally each year it is associated with more than 8,000 new childhood asthma cases and at least 150,000 new cases of bronchitis and pneumonia in kids under 18 months old.⁸

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Washingtonians prefer smoke-free

- More than 80 percent of Washington residents don't smoke.⁹
- Secondhand smoke exposure in homes in Washington has gone down 26 percent since the Tobacco Prevention and Control Program began in 2000. Even among smokers, 55 percent are not smoking in their homes.¹⁰

Economic facts

Operating costs and increased profits

- Smoke-free laws add value to establishments as restaurants in smoke-free cities have a higher market value at resale (an average of 16 percent higher) than comparable restaurants located in smoke-filled cities.¹¹
- Studies have shown that after comprehensive smoking laws go into effect, business revenues either go up or stay the same. For example in New York City, during the first year after the new smoking law, business tax receipts in restaurants and bars went up nearly nine percent. And, because bars and restaurants were busier, this created more than 10,000 new jobs.¹²
- Massachusetts' comprehensive smoke-free law did not influence sales or employment in the state's restaurants, bars, and nightclubs after taking effect on July 5, 2004. The study also found 96.3 percent compliance with the law, which covers all restaurants, bars, and other workplaces.¹³

Going smoke-free & cessation rates

- If all workplaces in the U.S. went smoke-free, the first year would produce about 1.3 million new quitters and prevent over 950 million cigarette packs from being smoked annually, worth about \$2.3 billion in pretax sales to the tobacco industry.¹⁴
- Our most current and extensive review of research indicates that smoke-free ordinances do indeed help smokers to smoke fewer cigarettes per day and also substantially increase their rates of quitting smoking. While it is probable that we could see a decrease in smoking rates in Washington after the passage of a smoke-free ordinance, it would be difficult to determine or predict the magnitude of this decrease in the context of our already successful comprehensive anti-tobacco program. Smoke-free ordinances are merely another piece of the comprehensive puzzle—that keeps kids from starting smoking and helps adults quit.¹⁵

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Employee productivity

- Secondhand smoke is costing the U.S. economy roughly \$10 billion a year: approximately \$5 billion in estimated medical costs associated with secondhand smoke exposure, and another \$5 billion in indirect costs such as: lost wages, reduced services, and costs associated with disabilities.¹⁶
- In one year, making all workplaces in the U.S. smoke-free would prevent about 1,500 heart attacks and 350 strokes, and result in nearly \$60 million in savings in direct costs.¹⁷

¹ National Cancer Institute. Health Effects of Exposure to Environment Tobacco Smoke. Smoking and Tobacco Control Monograph No. 10. Bethesda, MD: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, National Institutes of Health, National Cancer Institute; 1999. NIH Pub. No. 99-4645.

² National Toxicology Program. 10th Report on Carcinogens. Research Triangle Park, NC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Public Health Service, National Toxicology Program, December 2002.

³ Centers for Disease Control. Annual smoking-attributable mortality, years of potential life lost, and economic costs—United States, 1995–1999 (PDF - 225k). Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report 2002;51(14):300–303.

⁴ Washington State Department of Health Progress Report, March 2005.

⁵ National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion. Tobacco Information and Prevention Sources (TIPS). Secondhand Smoke, Fact Sheet. February 2004. Accessed: December 2004.

⁶ Fontham ET, Correa P, WuWilliams A, et al. Lung Cancer in Nonsmoking Women: a Multi-center Case-Control Study Epidemiol Biomarkers Prev 1991; 1 (1): 35-43.

⁷ Siegel M. Involuntary Smoking in the Restaurant Workplace. A Review of Employee Exposure and Health Effects. JAMA. 1993 Jul 28; 270 (4): 490-3.

⁸ Health Effects of Exposure to Environmental Tobacco Smoke; California Environmental Protection Agency, Final Report, September 1997.

⁹ Washington State Department of Health Progress Report, March 2005.

¹⁰ Washington State Department of Health Progress Report, March 2005.

¹¹ Alamar, B.; Glantz, SA. "Smoke-Free Ordinances Increase Restaurant Profit and Value." Contemporary Economic Policy, 22(4), October 2004, 520-525.

¹² The State Of Smoke-Free New York City: A One-Year Review, March 2004.

¹³ Evaluation of the Massachusetts Smoke-free Workplace Law, April 2005.

¹⁴ Ong, M.K.; Glantz, S. A., "Cardiovascular health and economic effects of smoke free workplaces," American Journal of Medicine 117(1): 32-38, July 1, 2004.

¹⁵ American Journal of Preventive Medicine "The Guide to Community Preventive Services: Tobacco Use Prevention and Control," February 2001.

¹⁶ Economic Effects of Environmental Tobacco Smoke, March 31, 2005.

¹⁷ Ong, M.K.; Glantz, S. A., "Cardiovascular health and economic effects of smoke free workplaces," American Journal of Medicine 117(1): 32-38, July 1, 2004.